

District 87

From: "marc & julie" <the_hutchins@sbcglobal.net>
To: <Dist087@house.mi.gov>
Date: 6/23/2007 8:55 AM

Dear Rep. Calley

I am writing this email as a testimonial for support of **House Bill 4554**. As you know, I am the person who instigated this notion for allowing smokeless powder to be used in a muzzleloading rifle in the state of Michigan. I have owned numerous smokeless powder muzzleloaders, produced by two companies, Savage Arms, and Smokeless Muzzleloading Inc.

I support this bill for a number of reasons:

- With respect to the Savage Muzzleloader, each and every rifle that leaves the factory is proof tested, much like their centerfire (breech loading) counterparts. No other muzzleloading manufacturer can make that claim. The proof testing load is in excess of 100,000 PSI. This is the worlds safest muzzleloading rifle. Compare that to the very popular (inexpensive) Spanish imports, that are spot tested (not every rifle is tested) to around 10,000 PSI and you will clearly see that the smokeless powder Savage is tremendously superior and safer. I might add that there are no SAAMI test specifications for muzzleloaders.
- Smokeless powder truly is a black powder substitute (as required by current law for muzzleloading rifles in Michigan).
- Smokeless powder is less volatile (safer) than black powder, it will not explode like black powder can.
- Smokeless muzzleloading is better for hunting because, after the shot, the shooter can actually see what they were shooting at, be it a target or an animal. After shooting a rifle with black powder, there is a huge ball of smoke that will obstruct the shooters vision for a few seconds. During those few seconds, the animal may travel in an unknown direction for an unknown distance. It is clear to me, that this advantage alone would be encouraged by the DNR for game recovery, as there is no smoke ball that comes out of the smokeless muzzleloader.
- Smokeless powder is cheaper to use than its black powder counter parts. I would also think that would encourage the DNR to this style of thinking, since Michigan is losing its hunter population at an alarming rate, and remains last in hunter retention among the US states.

To summarize, smokeless powder muzzleloading is safer, cheaper, and more likely to produce game recovery. These distinct advantages are important to me when hunting with a muzzleloader.

Please feel free to share these facts with whomever and do not hesitate to contact me about this issue in the future.

Thank you in advance for considering this bill and all the support you have shown the sportsmen and sportswomen of Michigan.

Best regards,

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